now-not by a proposition got up from con or interested parties; not just sprung up at the nent, but by one in conformity with the practice of the Government for many years—to appropriate money for a work long ago surveyed, and to which the attention of the Gavernment has surveyed, and to which the attention of the Gavernment has been given for many years, and upon which much has been expected. for which an appropriation was made at the last session. Yet the friends of the river and barbor till expect us quietly, and without any opposition, to take it, though we are not permitted to make any amendments. I should like to hear them say that this amendment is improper; I should like to hear the Senator from Massachusetts, whose constitulike to hear the Senator from Massachusetts, whose constituents take such an interest in the navigation of the ocean and of the Mississippi, rise and say whether it is not material that the mouths of the Mississippi should be open, so that the hundreds and thousands of ships that enter there may do it with less danger than they now do. I put it to the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, (Mr. Hamlin,) if the clearing out of the mouths of the Mississippi is not of as much importance to the ships of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and other places as the clearing out of a bar at St. Louis or at some of the harbors upon the lakes, which excited so much some of the harbors upon the lakes, which excited so much ridicule the other day? Yet so long as they can get appropriations for the East for improvements which they insist upon, they expect us to vote silently and let the bill pass. That is one objection which I have to this bill—that it is par tial in its operation, that it is gotten up without reference to There are just enough to carry it through, as they suppose; while others, however just, or proper, or necessary, have the door shut sgainst them by a majority.

Mr. BRADBURY. If the Senator from Louisiana will

give way, I have a motion to submit, to which I wish to call the attention of Senators on the other side. It is that this bill shall be laid on the table temporarily, for the purpose of action upon the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill, with the understanding that this bill shall be taken up immediately upon the passage of that bill. Several Senators opposed to the passage of this bill have agreed with me that this bill shall be taken up when that bill passes. I now move that this bill may be laid on the table temporarily, not as a test vote.

The yeas and nays were ordered; and, being taken, re

Sulted as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Atchison, Bradbury, Butler, Clemens, Davis, of Mississippi, Dawson, Downs, Foote, Hamlin, Houston, Hunter, King, Mason, Morton, Noveis, Pearce, Soule, Stargeon, Turney, and Yulee—20.

NAYS—Messrs. Badger, Baldwin, Bell, Borland, Bright, Cass. Chase, Clarke, Clay, Cooper, Davis, ot Massachusetts, Dodge, of Wisconsin, Douge, of Iowa, Ewing, Felch, Greene, Jones, Mangum, Miller, Phelps, Pratt, Rantoul, Sebastian, Seward, Smith, Spruance, Underwood, Upham, Wales, Walker, and Whitcomb—31.

So the motion was not sgreed to.

Mr. RUSK. I ask the unanimous consent of the Senate to suspend action for a moment upon this bill, in order to take up the bill to reduce the rates of postage and concur in the amendments made by the House of Representatives.

Mr. CLEMENS. I object.

Mr. FOOTE. I rise for the purpose of making a motion,

eliminary to which I shall make a last appeal to honorable Senators. All must be perfectly satisfied now that this bill cannot pass. If other gentlemen do not know it I do, and have told them so before. Various amendments are yet to be offered in this quarter of the Senate. I have declined myself offering any further amendments, but several honorable Senstors have matured amendments, the adoption of which they believe to be indispensable to the perfection of this bill. They aver to me that they cannot conscientiously vote for the bill unless it be amended in the manner in which they propose; and I can assure the Senate that these gentlemen conceive it necessary that they should occupy some time in explanation amendments. Under such circumstances, it being most obvious that this bill cannot pass, and it being equally obvious that if the appropriation bills be defeated it will throw us into the utmost confusion; and with a view of getting at the appropriation bills and passing them, and having treaties ratified, and nominations acted upon, I move to lay the bill

The question being taken, by yeas and nays, resulted as

YEAS—Messra. Atchison, Bradbury, Butler, Clemena, Davis, of Mississippi, Dawson, Downs, Foote, Gwin, Hale, Hamlin, Houston, Hunter, King, Mason, Morton, Norris, Pearce, Rhett, Soule, Sturgeon, Turney, Yulee—23.

NAYS—Messra. Badger, Baldwin, Bell, Borland, Bright, Cass, Chase, Clarke, Clay, Cooper, Davis, of Massachusetts, Dickinson, Dodge, of Wisconsin, Dodge, of Iowa, Ewing, Felch, Greene, Jones, Mangum, Miller, Phelps, Pratt, Rantoul, Sebastian, Seward, Shields, Smith, Spruance, Underwood, Upham, Wales, Walker, Whitcomb—35. So the motion was not agreed to.

Mr. ATCHISON. I have voted for the last time to lay this bill on the table, on a motion made by a gentleman op-posed to the bill. Whenever that motion shall come from the friends of the bill, I will vote for it; and I trust no gentleman of the minority will again make it. I am willing to stay here until we shall be compelled to adjourn, or until those gentle-men who advocate this bill shall make a motion finally to dis-

pose of it.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. We are ready to dispose of it now. Mr. CLEMENS. Mr. President, I have several amendments which I shall propose to this bill some time during the evening. I think it is necessary, before I propose any amendment to which my remarks would be restricted, that I should say something in reply to remarks which have fallen from friends of the bill. We have been told that there is a minority do not know whether there is a majority for this bill or sgainst it. Certain it is, that the votes which have been taken are no indications of it, because some gentlemen who have uniformly voted with the friends of the bill have announced their determination to vote against the hill itself unless it he materially amended. The friends of the bill have uniformly voted down every amendment which has been proposed, and have voted for appropriations for places the locatio of which they We have been told that we shall assume a did not know. We have been told that we shall assume a fearful responsibility before the country, if, by proceeding in our opposition to the bill, we shall finally defeat the appropriation bills. Well, if there is any responsibility to attach to that species of opposition, we have high authority for proceeding in it. The very member who reported this bill once spoke out a session. What right has he, then, to complain if we think proper to resort to a similar practice? The very mem-ber who reported this bill, and one of its warmest advocates, pursued, and in time of war, too, the very course which he

is now complaining that we pursue.

So far as responsibility is concerned, I wish to say that I am willing to take my share of it. If any responsibility is to rest on me, or the party to which I am attached, I am perfectly willing to take it. I am willing to go before the country with that responsibility, but I do not choose at the same time that facts shall be distorted or misrepresented here. I do not propose that we shall go before the country on false issues, and that facts shall be falsified. It is known to every member of the Senate that if these appropriation bills are defeated, it will be done by those who have persisted in urging the passage of this bill in opposition to every other measure of beneficial legislation. They had full and sufficient warning. They were told, the very moment the motion was made to take up the bill, that this would be the probable result. They have had warning, and they know that nearly one-half of this Senate in any event is opposed to the passage of the bill, and they know that that half of the Senate would resort to any means they could to defeat its passage. That is the ground which we are compelled to occupy. Our objections to this bill are constitutional. We cannot, so long as we are protected by the rules of the Senate, consent to abandon the position we have taken, or consent to what we believe a violaposition, I consent to the passage of an unconstitutional bil, position, I consent to the passage of an unconstitutional bill, or one which I at least believe to be unconstitutional; and, whether it be so or not, the guilt on my part would be the same, because, believing it to be unconstitutional, any consent to its passage implicates me in the passage of it. The friends of this measure knew the weapons which the rules placed in our hands. They had warning again and again they ask us to lay it down so that the business of the country that if this bill was taken up and pressed, in opposition to all other measures, the result would be that the legislation of the country would be stopped. The honorable Senator from Kentucky indulged in a complaint about the consumption of time. I sak him, and I sak the Senate, and I do it with perfect respect, who has consumed most of the time of the Senate from the beginning of this discussion up to the present time? Was it by this or the other side of the cham-? So far as I am concerned, I have made but one speech, and that, I believe, did not exceed thirty minutes in length.

I have consumed no part of the time. The friends of the

I have consumed no part of the time. The friends of the measure have delayed it up to the present time. They did not work upon it at a time when we could have considered it carefully; and, if now they attempt to force it upon us, they must expect us to resort to the rules to defend ourselves.

We have had during the discussion on this bill some new discoveries as to Democracy. I shall move directly to strike out the appropriation for the Arkanass river, and call on the Senator from Arkanass to tell me what portion of the Baltimore platform, what portion of General Jackson's messages, or what portion of Mr. Calhoun's letter, he can rely upon to apprain him in voting for the improvement of that river, a litor what portion of the improvement of that river, a lit-sustain him in voting for the improvement of that river, a lit-tle stream which rises in the Indian nation, and flows altogether through the State of Arkansas, where for three quarters of the way a squirrel can jump from one side of it to the other? It is said this is national; that it is sustained and supported by the principles of the great Democratic party, and Democrats are called upon to vote for this measure, and we are told that General Jackson, Mr. Polk, Mr. Calhoun, we are told that General Jackson, Mr. Polk, Mr. Calhoun, and half a dozen other leaders of the party, in times gone by, have sanctioned such things. I deny it. Then there are \$50,000 appropriated for the harbor at Dubuque. Who ever heard of a harbor there? There is none. Dubuque is a little town upon the upper waters of the Mississippi. How is that appropriation to be justified upon any Democratic principle? No one has attempted to justify it. I shall read the Demo-

move to suspend the 17th joint rule for the purpose of allowing that bill to be sent to the President.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. I object. Mr. TURNEY. I object.
Mr. FOOTE. I object to sending any more bills unless

they are appropriation bills.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Very well; we can object to every thing else.]
Mr. CLEMENS. Mr. President, I have consumed now something like an hour and a half of the time of the Senate, and I take it upon me to assert that better dectrine has never been promulgated here. I have another speech of about the same length to make, but, for the purpose of resting my voice, I believe I will not make it until the bill shall be reported to the Senate, when I shall make it, containing the same doc-trines, but not quite so well expressed. Before I take my seat I wish to notice a very significant avowal made by the Sena-

tor from Kentucky.

He told us that this morning he sought an avowal from as to whether it was our purpose to defeat this bill. I did not happen to be in at the moment, and do not know what language he used; and I take his last declaration that he sought an avowal. For what purpose was that avowal sought? Was it for the purpose of ascertaining whether this bill would be esisted, and if so, to lay it on the table? His subsequen conduct has indicated very clearly that was not the purpose For what purpose then did he seek the avowal? I support the usual and courteous phrase in which to put it is, that I the usual and courteous parase in which to put it is, that he wanted it to go to the country. Plain men in the backwoods, however, would call it an electioneering issue. He sought, then, an electioneering issue upon this bill. So far as I am concerned he may have it. If he wishes to go to the country upon the issue, I am willing that he shall do so. I intend to go to the country upon it, and when this bill is taken up and examined by the people, when its deformities are exposed as they will be, when the determination of Senators to vote down every amendment is seen, I would like to see the part of the country in which it will be sustained by the honest yeomanry of the land. We had an avowal early in the day, or, if not an avowal, indications that every amendment was to be voted down, and every amendment that has been offered has been voted down. For the purpose of saving myself the trouble of making an explanation hereafter, I will state that when this determination was manifested, when it was clear when this determination was manifested, when it was clear and certain that the friends of the bill intended to force it upon us in this shape, and resisted the passage of every amendment, I voted for every one that was offered, and in doing so I did not mean to commit myself to them, for if every one of them had been adopted I should still have voted against the bill. I

am perfectly willing to take a little rest until this bill is re-ported to the Senate, when I shall have another hour and a half speech to make. I give way to the Senator from Mr. UNDERWOOD. Then I object. 1 Mr. RUSK. With the consent of the Senator from Ala bama, I ask the unanimous consent of the Senate now to take up the amendments of the House to the cheap postage bill. The unanimous consent being granted, the Senate proceed ed to consider the above bill. The amendments of the House

to the amendments of the Senate were, on motion of Mr

RUSE, concurred in.

There being no objection, the motion was agreed to.

Mr. CLEMENS. I gave notice before I commenced reading that I had several amendments to propose to this river and harbor bill; and first I move to strike clause, "for the improvement of the Mississippi river below the rapids, the Ohio river below the falls at Louisville, the Missouri and Arkansas rivers, \$240,000," the words "and Arkansas." Upon that amendment I ask for the yeas and nays. I wish to see how many Democrats will stand on the Saltimore platform. I wish to see whether those Democrats who think they are on Mr. Calhoun's platform will vote to

retain that river in this bill. I want to know what is national

n its character.

Mr. BORLAND. I simply desire to call the attention of the Senate to the vote about to be taken. I do not deem it at all necessary to go into a defence of this appropriation The improvement of the Arkansas river has been so long an-object of public attention, and Congress has so frequently made appropriations for this purpose, that it is not requisite now to state its character or defend its merits.

The question being taken on the amendment, by yeas and nays, resulted : YEAS—Messrs. Bright, Clemens, Davis, of Mississippi, Dawson, Dickinson, Downs, Hamlin, Huater, King, Mason, Morton, Norris, Soule, Sturgeon, Turney, Whitcomb, and

NAYS-Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Baldwin, Bell, Berrien, Borland, Chase, Clarke, Clay, Cooper, Davis, of Massachusetts, Dodge, of Iowa, Ewing, Greene, Houston, Jones, Miller, Pearce, Pratt, Rantoul, Sebastian, Seward, Shields, Smith, Spruance, Underwood, Upham, Wales, Walker—29. So the amendment was rejected.

Mr. DICKINSON. My impression, has been from the commencement of this struggle, that the appropriation bills nefriends of the bill. We have been told that there is a minority here who are determined to defeat the will of the majority. I cessary for the support of the Government should first be acted do not know whether there is a majority for this bill or against upon. I should hold it to be a great misfortune, as well as a great shame, if the very same Congress who quieted the agi-tation which lately existed all over the country, by the passage of the compromise measures, should contribute to break down the very Government which it boasts of having established on a firmer basis. I think it is due to the occasion to pass the bills necessary to carry on the Government, and then we may take up this bill. I have been exceedingly anxious that a portion of this bill should pass, and although it contains several provisions which are too objectionable to receive my vote, I have deemed it proper to keep this bill before the Senate, in order to see its interest of the second s nate, in order to see if it could not be placed in a shape in which I could vote for it. I have, therefore, voted against every motion to lay it on the table, and against every motion to postpone if, because I wished to see whether it could not be put in a shape that I could vote for it. But it is perfectly evident now to every one who knows any thing of the temper of the Senate that the bill cannot pass. Why this struggle? Why this boyish—less than boyish—this childish struggle over this bill. We may as well meet this resistance. Let us lay the bill aside by common consent and not prolong the coa-troversy as to who "killed cock robin." Let us take up and pass the appropriation bills, and then if there is any more time eft of my term of official existence, I shall be happy to takeup this bill, and try to dispose of it. I regretted to hear the Senator from California call for the yeas and nays on his motion, because as long as they as they are called, just so long this bill will kept up. Let us lay the bill aside, and take up the appropriation bills.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. The Senator from New York tells is that this bill cannot pass. He tells us that it is manifes to every body that it cannot be passed. Now, how does he know that until we come to the vote? How does he know that until we come to a vote on the third reading of the bill In it is a prescience which I do not concede to that gentlemen, as much as I admire his sagacity. He cannot tell until we vote whether it will pass or not. Then the object is never to come to a vote—to the test. We have been waiting here for hours to apply that test to this bill, and it is because of gentlemens or the above side the second or the start of the second or the second or the start of the second or tlemen on the other side that we cannot get the test applied. They will not allow it to come to a vote, but they fight off and as they have made the issue, as that has been their policy from the beginning, as they have placed themselves in that position, and as we have been ready, and anxious, and desirious, and willing to vote; now, when they have wasted the time of the Senate, I am for meeting them before the country on the issue which they themselves have made. I is their proposal; they have submitted it; they have taken their course, when we have been mostly silent, ready, anxious, and desirous to vote, and now they wish to escape the effects of their own conduct by telling us that we can never may go on. Sir, they are the persons that are defeating the business of the country. This is the business of the country; this is the legitmate business of the country. We have a right to ask them to vote upon it, and I hope that those who have remained here, anxious to vote, until this time, will not go until the bill is passed. I shall, therefore, call for the yeas and nays if the motion is made to lay the bill on the table.

Mr. FOOTE. I cannot permit some observations which ave fallen from the honorable Senator from Kentucky to go out unanswered. It is not just to us to say that we have taken the responsibility of defeating this bill or any bill. We stand before the country in such an attitude that all honest men, free from prejudice, will appland our conduct and con-demn the conduct of our adversaries. demn the conduct of our adversaries.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I deny it.

Mr. FOOTE. The gentleman denies it, but when he onfesses that he is not able to see that this bill will be deeated, his denial is worth about as much as his power of prophecy; that is, nothing. What is the present state of things? We have said, upon our honor as Senators, that We have said, upon our honor as Senators, that

we have conscientious scruples against it.

Mr. JONES. Then vote against it.

Mr. HOUSTON spoke at much length against the bill. Mr. DAWSON. I occupy a very peculiar situation in station to this measure. I am a friend to this Administration, a Whig, and have acted so uniformly. I have heard all the discussion upon this question, and have had my share in it, to a limited extent. The groupds upon which I stand in relation to this measure are these: Since the year 1844 no raise as a question of privilege. appropriations have been made according to the principles of this bill. Seven years, then, have expired since an appropriation has been made. We had taken up the civil and diprinciples of the principles of this bill. Seven years, then, have expired since an appropriation has been made. We had taken up the civil and diprinciples of the principles of this opinions, the Chair will adjourn the Senator succeeds in establishment for no other Senator will have a right to remain.

Mr. HALE. I know that as well as the Chair, but I can the property of the principles of the plomatic appropriation bill, and had made some progress with it, when this bill was taken up in opposition to that, with a declaration on the part of its friends that this measure should be taken up sgainst every other measure which is before the question.

Mr. HALE. I know that as well as the Chair, but I candulated the control of the part of its friends that this measure should be taken up sgainst every other measure which is before the

ions of local, cratic creed, and to prevent the possibility of any one moving | Senate, and that if this bill could not pass, every appropri to suspend its reading I will read it myself.

The honorable gentleman proceeded to read at great length various extracts from the message of President Polk vetoing the bill for the improvement of rivers and harbors.

[A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. Young, their Clerk, announcing that the House had passed Senate bill No. 4, entitled an act for the relief of the American Colonization Society, without amendment.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I ask the unminous consent to move to suspend the 17th joint rule for the purpose of allow.

Why have done it? There stated the received and I opposed it. And move to suspend the 17th joint rule for the purpose of allow. nothing but the instrument in the hands of the other orange of the National Legislature to pass this measure. That was the position which was assumed, and I opposed it. And why have done it? Thave stated the reasons. It is, shat by the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, this Government is indebted \$80,000,000, and that the appropriations for this session exceed the estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury by \$10,000,000, and then this bill must be forced upon us to increase the indebtedness of this Government, and before we can carry on these internal improvements the money must be borrowed. And because we do not rally to the standard of those who believe a national debt to be a national blessing, we are said to be opposed to what the best interests of this country demand. I have taken my position on this question, and I intend to stand upon it. It is the course I have pursued since I entered Congress fifteen years ago. Internal improvements for national purposes I will sustain; but when you propose a measure which is not national connected with those that are national, and it is sought to pass the whole against my well-settled judgment, I will resist it.

[The following message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. Young, their Clerk:

"Mr Precident: The House of Representatives have adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved. That the Clerk of this House inform the Senate."

ed the following resolution:
"Resolved, That the Clerk of this House inform the Senat

"Resolved, That the Clerk of this House inform the Senate that this House, having disposed of the important business of the session, is new ready to adjourn."]

Mr. DAVIS; of Mississippi. I must bring before the Senate a question which has been presented and argued before, but never settled; the question as to the hour at which the session of Congress terminates. It is now twelve o'clock, and if the session has terminated my duties have closed. There are others in the same condition with myself. The honorable and distinguished Senator from Michigan stated it as his opinion on a former occasion, and he sustained it by his action, that the session closed at twelve o'clock at night. action, that the session closed at twelve o'clock at night. I must confess I have always entertained some doubt; my own opinion is not quite clear on the subject, was not clear when I was not interested; now the case is one upon which f do not feel quite willing to risk my own judgment, and it is not proper that I should decide, because I am a party involved.

My term has expired if the session has closed. I'desiretherefore, to know of the Senate whether the session has closed or not? I submit the question to the Senate, therefore, whether this Senate can longer remain in session? In order to put the question in form, I now move that, because the session has closed, the Senate do now adjourn; and on that question I sak the year and nave.

session has closed, the Senate do now adjourn; and on that question I ask the year and nays.

Mr. FC@TE. I would suggest that it would be best to concur in the resolution sent from the House. I understand that would be the best plan. If I may be allowed, I move that the Senate concur in the resolution of the House.

Mr. CASS. Two years ago this night, upon the third of March, 1849, this question was raised. If then stated my opinion to be that the Congress of the United States terminates, according to the constitution, at twelve o'clock on the

opinion to be that the Congress of the United States terminates, according to the constitution, at twelve o'clock on the night of the third of March. My term of service as a Senstor from Michigan expires when the third of March expires. The question is when does the third of March expire? The pills you pass this night will all be signed on the March," it will be so stated; but it is not true. They are not signed on the third of March; and the very fact shows conclusively that the third of March has terminated, and with it our service has terminated. You have to reserv to a faction, which in fact is a falsehood, in order to justify holding over the total constant of the total constant in the constant of the total constant of the consta On that occasion I stated that to be my opinion; and being my opinion, and being decided in my opinion that my term of service has expired, I shall so vote, and after voting shall do

no more business.

Mr. BADGER: If we concur in the resolution from the House we only concur in the resolution that the House ready to adjourn.

Mr. MASON. I object to the resolution, and I cannot encur in it because we have not disposed of the importar

business of the session.

Mr. HOUSTON. I have just learned that the House he almost unanimously resolved that they will not adjourn, and that they are competent to transact business. My own opirtion is, that the Senate will have power to sit till to morrow a sunset. I think if we adjourn on the fourth of March, it is

all that the constitution requires.

Mr. DAWSON. I do not wish to embarrase the bill to all; but I wish to windicate the position which I occupy. I has been said that the course pursued by the minority her ever disorganizing in its character, and intended to defeat the appropriation bills, with a view to embarrase the Administration. I deny that any man on this flow is a better friend of tion. I dony that any man on this floor is a better friend o the Administration than I am: there is not one. We had the the Administration them I am : there is not one. We had the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill up for consideration of Friday, and had progressed in it. When we adjourned it re mained the unfinished business-, but a majority carried the proposition to take up this bill out of its order, and to super sede the unfinished business of the preceding day. They placed this bill in advance of the appropriation bills in order to force its passage, and permitted no amendments to be made either to change its features as it came from the House, or to add any thing to it. Against that I raised my voice; I interposed my objections; and now they come here and say we are disorganizing in the tendency of our acts, when they as sume the position of forcing the Administration into the unpleasant extremity of calling an extra session. Who is responsible? Not the opponents of the twee and harbor bill—not they. I appealed to the Senate to take up the appropriation bill, and then take up this measure, and, if they had power, to pass it. I have interposed no measure to defeat this bill. I have resorted to no parliamentary strategy, but have voted on every question presented, and was prepared to do it until the end of the session. But, for fear it may be said that my object is to defeat the appropriation bill, I will desire from the discussion; but I will say to the Senate now, not withstanding any views that I may have. I will sit here with withstanding any views that I may have, I will sit here with out opening my mouth and vote for the passage of every appropriation bill, and for every measure calculated to carry o propriation bill, ar this Government.

this Government.

[A message was received from the House of Representatives by the hands of Mr. Young, their Clerk, announcing that the Speaker had signed sundry enrolled bills.]

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. I raised a question of privilege for the consideration of the Senate a short time since. I will now send a resolution to the Chair, and ask that it may be read, in order to bring the subject before-the body.

Mr. DAWSON. A resolution cannot be offered when a guestion is reading.

a question is pending.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. It can as a question of privilege. It is a question whether this body is in seer don

The PRESIDENT. The Chair will receive the res

The resolution was then read:

Resolved, That the second session of the Tharty-first Congress has closed by the arrival of the hour of twelve o'close P. M. of the third of March, and therafore the Senate notify the House that they are ready to adjourn.

Mr. BADGER. That cannot be considered a question of

privilege.
The PRESIDEND. The Shair will not consider that as Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. Is not that a question of privilege? Then I approach the Chair and sak to be sworn in as a member of the new Congress. That presents the question. [Mr. DAVIS stepped forward to the President's chair.]
Mr. HALE. I rise to a question of psivilege. I object to the Senator from Mississippi taking any part in the proceedings of the Senate, as his term has expired.
Mr. MASON. The Senator has been re-elected, and has

a right to qualify.

Mr. HALE. If he qualifies under that re-election he has a right; but I object to his taking any part in the proceedings.

his term has expired. Mr. BALDWIN. I wish to inquire whether a memi elected for the thirty-second Congress has a right to be swomin during the session of the thirty-first Congress.

Mr. BOELAND. I rise to inquire, inasmuch as the Senator from Mississippi proposes to take the eath, if this be the first session of the thirty-second Congress which will entitle him to take the eath?

him to take the oath?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair does not feel himself at liberty to administer the oath to the Senator from Mississippi, as a Senator of the thirty-second Congress. He has already been sworn as a Senator of this Congress, and has discharged his duties as such, and until the next Congress he will not be entitled to take the oath. When this Congress adjourns, and a new one meets, or if the President calls the Senate together after the close of this session for executive business, the Senator from Mississippi will be entitled to be sworn, and not till then.

Mr. HALE. I object to the Senator's appearing.
The PRESIDENT. You have no right to object.
Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. That brings up the questi

think.

Mr. HALE. I appeal from that decision. The Senate Mr. HALE. I appeal from that decision. The Senator admits, what we all know, that the term for which he was elected has expired; and to show that I am not captious in my views, I will state that I have just been to the Secretary's office to examine the returns of election, and I looked at the credentials of the Senator from Mississippi, and I found he was elected for six years from the fourth of March, 1845. There have been six fourths of March since 1845, and you cannot crowd seven of them into six years. We are now in the fourth of March, 1851, the six years have expired, and raise as a question of privilege.

The PRESIDENT. If the Senator succeeds in esta

Mr. POOTE. I think the first question would be as to the right of the Senator objecting to object.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. The question equally involves the Senator from New Hampshire and myself. It the session be at an end, my term of office has closed; if is be at an end, my term of office has closed; if is be at an end, by the has a right to set. end he has no right to act. He has no more power over me than I have over him in relation to the matter. You must meet the question fairly face to face. Is the session at an end

Mr. POOTE. Is it not a fact that if this body were t adjourn at 10 o'clock to-morrow, it would adjourn on the Ah of March? It is troe, as the Senator from Michigan seys, that these bills must be signed on the 3d of March; they have to import to be of the 3d of March. If they were signed on the 4th of March, they would be invalid. Are we authorized to commit an act of falsification as to our [A message was received from the President of the United

The PRESIDENT. With the permission of the Senat the Chair will state that he has received from the Presiden of the United States an otification in the following words:

MILLARD FILLMORE

WASHINGTON, MARCH'S, 1851. The President requested me to state that a notification would be sent to each Senator as soon as they were prepared.

Mr. DICKINSON: I hay e the President will send commissions to those of us who has ve not got them. [Laughter.]

The PRESIDENT: What is the question the Senator from New Hampshire wishes to be submitted to the Senate as a privileged question?

Mr. HALE. I raise a question as to the right of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. Davis) to participate in the proceedings.

The PRESIDENTY He has the same right as any

Sensior.

Mr. HALE: I am aware of that; but some individual case must be selected. I did not in then to raise the point in the case of the Senator from Missis sippi, but as to another the case of the Senator from Missis sippi. member of the Senate: I am not particular as to the form in which the question is raised. It ink it ought to be raised and met. To meet the question, I move that the Senate adjourn sine die, and on that motion I ask the year and nays.

The yeas and mays were ordered.

Mr. RHETT. I beg leave to make an inquiry of the President, if it be in his power to answer it. I understand that all the commissions of Senators that are on file state that their term is from the 4th day of March of such a year until their term is from the 4th day of March of such a year until the 4th day of March of another year, and those who have received, like myself, appointments for a limited time to fill a vacancy, have their commissions filled "until the 4th of March." I know that is the case with my commission. If so, the commission of every Senator on this floor has designated to him the time of the expiration of his service, and it is "until the 4th of March," which I take to be the beginning of the 4th of March. If that is the fact, can the President communicate it to the Senate."

sident communicate is to the Senate?

The PRESIDENT? The presiding officer is unable to say how the commissions of Senators are filled up in that

respect.

Mr. EWING. I have never had any great difficulty about this point. The Senate meets at 12 e'clock on the 4th day of March. Then the term commences, and at 13; o'clock on the 4th March it ends, because it must consist of six years. The President is never inaugurated until the 4th March, at Mr. JAVIS, of Mississippi. I rise to a question of pri

vilege, and wish the Senate to decide on the subject. I now object p my friend from Indiana (Mr. Barear) voting on this question. He will be the first Senator called whose term has expired, and I object to his voting.

The PRESIDENT. Objection is made to the Senator from Indiana voting on the motion to adjourn sine dies, on the ground that his commission expired at 12 o'clock this

Nr. AFCHISON. I object to entertaining the motion, or justing the question, coming as it does from the Senator from Mississippi. If the Senator from Indiana is not entitled

rem Mississippi. If the Senator from Indiana is not entitled to wote, most assuredly the Senator from Mississippi is not entitled to make the motion to exclude him.

Mr. IbAVIS, of Mississippi. That is a question yet to be settled. D comes after B; and until you settle the question in my case, it is an open question. I therefore have the same right to object as the Senator from Missouri has to speak.

If the session is at an end, he has no right to address the Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts. The day, as we ordingin the practice of the Government the political day com-mences at 12 o'clock noon. There are two modes of commences at 12 o clock moon. There are two modes of com-puting time; one, for ordinary purposes, makes the day begin at 12 o'clock at night; that for political purposes, according to the practice and usage of the Government, at 12 o'clock at noon. If that is not so, there has been within your know-

ladge, sir, and within mine, a great deal of illegal legislation.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I wish to know whether the motion to adjourn sine die is not debatable.

The PRESIDENT. Certainly not.

The SECRETARY proceeded to call the roll, and when he alled Mr. Bargar's name— Mr. DAVIS, of Misgissippi, said:: I object to the Sena-

or's voting.

Mr. BRIGHT. I certainly have a right to vote eitherunder my old commission, or under my new one. If I can-not vote under my old commission, I ask to be sworn in. Mr. BRADBURY. I move that the Senator be permitted

Mr. DOUGLAS. I suggest that in order to get an opportunity of deciding that question, the question be taken be-fore the result is announced, as to whether my friend from Indiana is or is not entitled to vote. I submit that he has a

Mr. BADGER. I desire to ask whether it is the right of Mr. BADGER. I desire to ask whether it is the right of any member of this body to raise the question that a gentleman is not a member whose name is on the roll. If it can be done this day, it can be done any, day of the session, and every call of the yeas and nays may be embarrassed with questions as to whether Senators have a right to vote, and it may be raised on every member of the body. I take it that no gentleman can raise this question. Gentlemen who are here have been recognised as members of this body and aworn in, and the question cannot be raised as to them. If it applies to one, it applies to us all. If the Senator from Indiana has no right to vote, none-of us have, and the session has closed. as closed.

Mr. FOOTE. The honorable Senator must be greatly Mr. FOOTE. The henceable Senator must be greatly mistaken on that point. Nothing can be more certain than the right of a membes to challenge an individual who attempts to vote as to his outhority to do so. Otherwise this hall might be filled with multitude of strangers, and a fraudulent list be thrown on the table, and if no question could be made, no objection raised, as to the right of any one to vote, the Senate of the United States might be converted into a large assembly of unauthorized persons. There must be some remedy for this, some mode of meeting it. The proper point is, when a gentleman's name is called and he attempts to vote; that is the proper time to challenge him, exactly as you would challenge a juror and ascertain whether he is competent to try the cause. Kou might as well go on and swear the whole jury, in excepting the individual challenged, as to go on and jury, in excepting the individual challenged, as to go on and call the roll, until the right of a Senator to vote is decided.

Mr. DICKENSON. I wish to suggest that time is too

Mr. DICKINSON. I wish to suggest that time is too precious to be wasted in this way.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair does not feel at liberty to decide any such question. It does not come within his province at all. The Senator from Indiana is a Senator in this Congress. If the Congress is at an end, if its period has closed, then of course none of us are Senators so far as voting in this Congress. Before the clerk calls the roll, therefore, the Chair is not at liberty to strike off any one, or decide that any one is not entitled to vote. If the Senate decide so, the Chair would feel bound to adjourn the body.

(To the Secretary.) Proceed with the call.

(To the SECRETARY.) Proceed with the call.

The Secretary proceeded to call the roll, and when Mr.

Case name was called—

Mr. CASS rose and said: I am no longer a member of

The Secretary proceeded to call the roll, and when the Senate. I am only a looker on.

The Secretary proceeded to call the roll, and when the same of Mr. DAYIS, of Mississippi, was called—

Mr. DAYIS, of Mississippi, rose and said: With the indulgence of the Senate I would say a word. My mind is not at all satisfied with this question. I am rather inclined to believe that, as Washington on his first full term was insugarted at 12 c-clock the fourth of March, and as every Presidential term has been for four years from that period, and as every Senatorial term runs for six years, the session may continue until 12 c-clock of the fourth of March. But the weight of very high authority is against my opinion. I have therefore appealed to the Senate for a decision of the question, and they not having given me that decision, I have task to be excused from voting.

The Secretary proceeded to call the roll, and when Mr. Mason's name was called—

Mr. DAYIS, of Mississippi, was called—

Mr. DAYIS, of Mississippi, rose and said: With the indulgence of the Senate for a decision of the question of order than the senator of the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. That is not for the Chair to decide. The PRESIDENT. T

When the names of Mr. YULKE and Mr. STURGEON were called, they made no response.

The SECRETARY having concluded the calling of the roll the result was announced as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Atchison, Borland, Chase, Clemens, Foote, Hale, Rhett, and Soule—8.

NAYS—Messrs. Badger, Baldwin, Bell, Bradbury, Bright, Clarke, Cooper, Davis, of Mass., Dawson, Dodge, of Wisconsin, Dodge, of Iowa, Douglas, Downs, Ewing, Felch, Greene, Gwin, Houston, Hunter, Jones, Miller, Morton, Norris, Pearce, Pratt, Rantoul, Rusk, Sebastian, Seward, Shields, Smith, Spruance, Underwood, Upham, Wales, and Whitcomb—36.

So the motion to adjourn sine die was rejected. The consideration of the river and harbor bill was then con

Mr. DAWSON. I would not detain the body by a course Mr. DA WOON. I would not detain the body by a course which is well understood here, but for the purpose of expediting what is absolutely necessary to carry on the Government. I trust every member of the body will concur in the motion that I now make to lay on the table for the present the river and barbor bill, for the purpose of taking up the ap-

ropression bills.

Mr. EWING. I call for the yeas and nays on it.

Mr. EWING. I call for the yeas and nays on it.
The yeas and nays were ordered.
Mr. MASON. I rise to a question of privilege. I demand that the Senate shall determine whether a new Senate is now in session, or whether the former Senate has expired. I demand, as was formerly done by my friend from Mississippi, that we shall be sworn into a new Congress of the United States. It is competent for the Senate to decide that question, and I shall acquiesce in their decision.
Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts. I have a very ready answer to the gentlemen. This is not the body to settle member's qualifications. It is another body, made up of one-third new members that is to settle that question.
The PRESIDENT. The Chair cannot undertake to administer the oath to any Senator as coming into a new Congress.

Mr. DOUGLAS. In order to avoid discussion, I accept he amendment of the Senator from Maine.

Mr. BADGER. If the object of this proposition is to as rtain whether the session of the Senate has closed, it can certain whether the session of the Senate has closed, it can no otherwise be ascertained than by getting the opinion of the Senate upon it. If that opinion is worth any thing, it has already been given, because if the session had terminated, the only thing the Senate could do was to adjourn sine die. It seems to me then that we are not called upon to determine whether this session will terminate at 12 o'clock tomorrow, or at what intermediate bour. It is sufficient that the Senate has decided that the session did not terminate at 12 o'clock to night. That has been decided, and it seems to me we gain nothing by this resolution, and I therefore move

me we gain nothing by this resolution, and I therefore move to lay it on the table.

Mr. SEWARD called for the yeas and nays, and they ere ordered, and, being taken, resulted as follows: YEAS—Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Baldwin, Bell, Clarke, Cooper, Davis, of Massachusetts, Dawson, Dickinson, Dodge, of Iowa, Ewing, Feleb, Gwin, Jones, Miller, Pearce, Pratt, Rantoul, Rusk, Seward, Shields, Spruance, Underwood, Upham, Wales, Walker, and Whiteomb—27.

NAYS—Messrs. Borland, Chase, Clemens, Douglas, Downs, Foote, Hamlin, Houston, King, Norris, and Sebastian—11.

Mr. VULEE. I rise to a question of privilege. I think it is desirable this matter should be settled definitively, as it may be done by a vote upon a very simple resolution which many gentlemen, myself among the number, have felt some delicacy as to our right to participate in the proceedings. I send up a resolution which I have prepared, and I think if a vote is now taken upon it, it will decide the matter, and de-

vote is now taken upon it, it will decide the matter, and decide it permanently as a precedent for future action.

The resolution was read as follows:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of the Senate, the present Congress does not expire by constitutional limitation until meridian of the 4th of March.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. This is not a constitutiona question ; it is conventional. You can fix a day to begin at one hour or at another. The political day, as it has been fixed, is conventional, and therefore we have a right to call upon the body to put their own construction upon it.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair considers this is a ma

ter appertaining to the discharge of the distinct of Se and therefore it is a question of privilege. The resolution offered by Mr. YVLEE was adopted.
The PRESIDENT: The proposition now is to lay the river and harbor bill on the table.

The question being taken by year and nays, resu

follows:
YEAS—Messrs. Bradbury, Glemens, Davis, of Mississippi, Dawson, Downs, Gwin, Hale, Hamlin, Houston, Hunter, King, Mason, Morton, Norris, Pierce, Back, Soule, and Yulee—13.
NAYS—Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Baldwin, Bell, Borland, Baldy Market Market

NAYS—Mesars, Atchison, Badger, Baldwin, Bell, Borland, Bright, Chase, Clarke, Cooper, Davis, of Massachusetts, Dickinson, Deoge, of Iowa, Ewing, Greene, Jones, Miller, Pratt, Rantonl, Schantian, Seward, Shields, Smith, Spruance, Underwood, Upham, Wales, Walker, and Whitzomb—28.

So the motion was not agreed to.

Mr. MASON, when his name was called, rose and said: The Senate having decided that this Congress does not expire until 12 o'clock this day, I shall vote.

Mr. SOULE. I propose to smend the bill by adding at the end of it the following :

And best further enacted, That the Sceretary of the Tree

And best further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury, be required to have prepared at the Treasury, and published within ninety days after the adjournment of each session of Congress, in the papers which print the public laws of the United States, tabular statements containing the following items of information, the amount of money appropriated during the said session of Congress to each State or Territory, or the citizens thereof, to wit:

First. For fortications, arsenals, hospitals, caval or military, and magazines.

First. For fortieations, arsenals, hospitals, caval or military, and magazines.

Second. For clearing out harbors and rivers, building lighthouses, piers, breakwaters, or dredging machines.

Third. The amount of compensation allowed to mail steamers, specifying the ports where they are registered, and from which they ply.

Fourth. The appropriations for the relief of citizens of each State and Territory, on account of private claims.

Fifth. An aggregate statement of the contracts made with the citizens of each State or Territory, for services, supplies, or materials, specifying such State or Territory.

Sixth. The amount of public lands appropriated to each State or Territory, or the citizens thereof.

And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury be required to present the said information in a condensed form, under the specific heads of the different States and Territories, that the people of the said States and Territories may easily understand through such statistics how and where the public treasure of the country is appropriated and expended.

Mr. EWING. I rise to a question of order. That amend nent is not in order, as it has no connexion with the subjec-

[A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. Young, their Clerk, announcing that they had concurred with the Senate in agreeing to suspend the 17th joint rule so far as relates to certain bills of the Senate and the House.]

Mr. BRADBURY. Allow me to suggest a convenient mode to settle the question which has been raised. We shall soon have occasion to take a vote by yeas and nays. Then, on a gentleman effering to vote, objection being made, the question will arise whether he has the right. That is the convenient mode.

Mr. POOTE. I think the first question would be as to the right of the Senate robject.

Mr. POOTE. I think the first question would be as to the right of the Senate robject.

Mr. Poote and therefore I cannot vote.

When the names of Mr. Yours and Mr. Sturgeon were called, they made no response.

The Senate and the announced as follows:

The Senate and the assumed and I predicated the course which I have pursued on considerations of expediency. I have been one of the whole were stood up here in opposition to this bill, and who were ready to the last to defeat it, by all the facilities which could be afforded them to affect that object. But the opposition which we have directed against this bill being founded upon principles of constitutionality, we were bound to stand up to and defend those principles which we had assumed, and to avail ourselves of every means left in our power in order to crush and bring to the ground those items by which the bill before us is made a vehicle of the most unberight of the Senator objects to the first question would be as to smith of the Senator objects and the facilities of the most unbertal production which has been raised. We shall the facilities of the senator of by which the bill before us is made a vehicle of the most un-blushing corruptions that were ever attempted under a free Government. The object of the amendment is to bring to the notice of the people the true situation of the country with respect to the appropriations which this bill is intended to car-ry out, and I hope it will be adopted. I ask the yeas and nays on the question.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. BELL. Mr. President, I will not say one word upon this subject if there is a propert of coming to a vote.

Mr. BELL. Mr. President, I will not say one word upon this subject if there is a prospect of coming to a vote now, or if any Senator in opposition desires to speak to the merits of the bill. I desire to come to a decision. I beg leave to say that I think the honorable Senator from Georgia (Mr. Dawson) did not represent the friends of this bill correctly and properly in stating that, when it was moved, all the business of the session, which had priority, was disregarded in order to take it up; and that the friends of the bill declared their determination that every other measure should fail un-Mr. MASON. I rise to a question of privilege. I demand that the Senate shall determine whether a new Senate is now in session, or whether the former Senate has expired. I demand, as was formerly done by my friend from Mississippi, that we shall be sworn into a new Congress of the United States. It is competent for the Senate to decide that question, and I shall acquiesce in their decision.

Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts. I have a very ready answer to the gentlemen. This is not the body to settle member's qualifications. It is another body, made up of one-third new members that is to settle that question.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair cannot undertake to administer the oath to any Senator as coming into a new Congress, and the Senate have refused by a vote to terminate this. The Senate of the United States have, on various occasions, continued to six after 12 o'clock of the night of the 3d March, and several times until the next morning at seven or eight o'clock, and Senators continued to vote upon all questions as they arise up to the time of adjournment. Although the individual opinion of the Chair to swear in any member of the Senate, as in a new Congress, until this Congress adjourn.

Mr. MASON. The Senate can alone decide that question, and is order to test it, I move that the Senate adjourn.

Mr. MASON. Certainly.

Mr. DOUGLAS. As the Senator withdraws the motion, I wish to introduce a resolution to cover the question:

Resolved, That inasmush as the 2d session of the S1st Congress does not expire, under the constitution, until 12 o'clock of the 4th March instant, the Hon. Jas. M. Mason, Senator elect from the State of Virginia, is not entitled to take the oath of office at this time.

Mr. HAMLIIN. I move to amend the resolution by adding at the end of it, "to wit, on the 4th of March, at one in the country in this course of the measure can stand before the country in this course of the uncursion on the facts of the case. They have had twenty-four hours to expose what they call the enormities of this bill, and I may say truly that all the friends of this bill who have spoken have not occupied more than two hours of that time. Some gentlemen in opposition have of them indulging a free discussion of the general principles and merits of the bill, and others a critical examination of the measure can stand before the country in this course of denunciation on the facts of the case. They have had twenty-four hours to expose what they call the enormities of this bill, and I may say truly that all the friends of this bill who have spoken have not occupied more than two hours of that time. Some gentlemen in opposition have of the mindulging a free discussion of the general principles and merits of the bill, and others a critical examination of the more than two hours of the time. Some gentlemen in opposition have spoken there are the friends of this bill, and others a critical examination of the more than two hours of the time. Some gentlemen in opposition have spoken there are the friends of this bill, and others a critical examination of the more than two hours of the time. Mr. HAMLIN. I move to amend the resolution by adding at the end of it, "to wit, on the 4th of March, at one o'clock A. M." I will state to the Senate in a single word what this amendment means. The journal of to-day will all bear date the 3d of March. Now, let us do justice to history. Let the resolution show upon its face when it was offered by the Senator from Illinois, to wit, at one o'clock A. M. of the 4th of March. Let the journal state that fact. If that amendment be incorporated into the resolution, it will show the true state of the case. I ask for the reading of the resolution as proposed to be amended was read as follows:

Resolved, That inasmuch as the second session of the Sist Congress does not expire under the constitution until 12 o'clock the 4th March instant, the Hon. Jas. M. Mason, Senator elect from the State of Virginia, is not entitled to take the oath of office at this time, to wit, on the 4th March, at one o'clock A. M.

Mr. DOUGLAS. In order to avoid discussion. I accept opinion, they could make the most of before the country as
of questionable propriety, and not fit to be incorporated in the
bill. I wish to know which measure had priority according to the orders and rules of the business and proceedings of
this body. I want to hear it reported from the Chair at what
time this measure was introduced, and what particular measure of a public character it has been made to overlay and exclude. Let us see whether we, who have been listening so patiently and voting so consistently to bring this measure to the test of a final decision, are to be justly subjected to the denunciations which have been heaped upon us. Can the Secretary report at what time this bill was presented to the

Senate The PRESIDENT. The Secretary will state. The SECRETARY. It appears from the minutes of the Senate that the river and harbor bill was reported on the 25th of February.

Mr. BELL. When was it sent from the House and referred? The SECRETARY. On the 19th of February. Mr. BELL. When was the civil and diplomatic bill re-ceived from the House, and when was it reported from the

The SECRETARY. It appears from the signature of the Clerk of the House of Representatives that the bill making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the

of February. It was referred to the Committee on Finance on that day, and reported on the 28th February.

Mr. BELL. So the civil and diplomatic bill was reported three days after the river and harbor bill was reported by the

Mr. BELL. So the civil and diplomatic bill was reported three days after the river and harbor bill was seported by the committee, and notice was given by the bonorable Senator from Massachusetts, (Mr. Daws,) who reported it, that he would call it up at the earliest moment. But for his disposition not to obstruct other important business, he would have called it up immediately. This bill had strictly psecedence or priority of the civil and diplomatic bill. With what propriety, then, can it be said that this measure has been forced upon the Senate out of order, and made to overlay other measures which were entitled to be first taken up?

How can honorable Senators speak of this as a measure which they have had no time to investigate and discuss? The general principles of this bill have been discussed annually for twenty years in succession. I believe the discussion commenced in 1824; so that for almost thirty years, in fact, the general principles connected with this bill, and their tendencies, have been familiar to every public man in the United States. I cannot speak postively as to all the items of this bill, but most of them are old acquaintances to the older members of the Senate. They are familiar acquaintances of mine for the last twenty-five years. Nearly all of them have been surveyed. Appropriations have been heretances of mine for the last twenty-five years. Nearly all of them have been surveyed. Appropriations have been here-to-fore made to most of them, and the work partly executed. This is the nature and history of the measure which is denounced as not being sufficiently discussed; and when the enemies of the bill have for twenty-two-hours at this late period of the present session been permitted to discuss its general features, as well as its details—

Mr. CLEMENS. I wish to ask the Senator from Tennesses if he can tall me where the harbor of New Delagore.

nessee, if he can tell me where the harbor of New Dela-Mr. BELL. I do not know that I am sufficiently acquain ed with the geography of every section to designate the parti-cular locality of every object. I do not know that there is an appropriation for such a harbor in the bill. I do not think

Mr. CLEMENS. There is an appropriation for the har-ber of New Delaware, but my knowledge of geography does

not extend to it.

Mr. BELL. There are harbors provided for in the bill,

of which the Senator might inquire of me the precise loca-tion, and which I may be unable to point out or to enumerate tion, and which I may be unable to point out or to enumerate by name—harbors on lake Ontario, on lake Eric, on the lakes of the northwest, with which I am not sufficiently familiar to inform him of the precise locality; but I know that nearly all of them have been examined, surveyed, and reported upon by officers of the Government, and all of them have

by officers of the Government, and all of them have been examined by the committee.

A single anecdote may illustrate the want of information on the part of Senators in one section of the country, with regard to the precise location of many works in other quarters—even those admitted to be important. An honorable friend of mine from the North, an excellent gentleman in every sense of the word, a valuable member of this Senate, and an opponent of this bill, insisted that Cumberland island was in the State of Tennessee.

Mr. CHASE. I will say that there is no appropriation in

Mr. CHASE. I will say that there is no appropriation in the bill for the improvement of New Belaware harbor. There is an appropriation for the improvement of the harbor of Newcastle, Delaware, and I think every body knows where that is. Mr. BELL. That is a well known point.

Mr. EWING. It was simply a blunder on the part of the entlemen from Alabama.

Mr. BELL. I mean to say that most of these objects

were old acquaintances of the senior members of the Senate, but I did not wish to intimate that I was familiar with every were old acquaintances of the senior members of the Senate, but I did not wish to intimate that I was familiar with every improvement that is proposed, nor can any Senator be presumed to be so; and it is no argument against the bill that every Senator is not well informed of the particular merits of every item contained in it. The objections of this character—exceptions to particular items, which may appear to be of inferior importance to others which are excluded—and all complaints founded upon the fact that some sections of the country have not equal justice done them in the partition of the appropriations proposed to be made, are urged without due reflection by the opponents of the bill, and without a proper consideration of the real difficulties attending any measure of the kind. When a bill of this description, whatever may be its general object or purpose—whether in the House or the Senate—is gotton up, what Senator, of any large and practical acquaintance with the business of logislation upon analogous subjects—upon subjects or objects embracing a great variety of interests—affecting a wast extent of country—what Senator is there that ever thinks such a bill entirely just or satisfactory in all of its parts? How is it possible to do complete justice, or to give satisfaction, to every section or locality? Honorable Senators here allege that particular sections or lo-